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Programme and budget

Programme and budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Programme and budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document presents an overview of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for the biennium 2018–2019. In addition to presenting a summary of the required human and financial resources, it outlines the components of the budget using a results-based budgeting approach that responds to the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session.

The proposed budget should be considered together with the comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2018–2021) and the two-year costed work programme for the Convention (2018–2019), which are presented in document ICCD/COP(13)/8-ICCD/CRIC(16)/2. This budget document should be read in conjunction with the information on financial and programme performance for the biennium 2016–2017 contained in documents ICCD/COP(13)/9 and ICCD/CRIC(16)/3.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. Rule 10 (d) of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP)¹ provides that the provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the COP shall include, as appropriate, the proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements.

B. Scope of the note

2. This document presents an overview of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 by providing a summary of the human and financial resources required. In accordance with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), which was adopted by the COP at its eighth session, the resource requirements are based on two-year work programmes of the secretariat, the Global Mechanism (GM), the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), using a results-based management approach.

3. The proposed budget should be considered together with the comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2018–2021), and the two-year costed work programme for the Convention (2018–2019), which are presented in document ICCD/COP(13)/8-ICCD/CRIC(16)/2. The budget document should be read in conjunction with the information on financial and programme performance for the biennium 2016–2017, which is contained in documents ICCD/COP(13)/9 and ICCD/CRIC(16)/3.

II. Building the proposed programme budget

Funding overview

4. The work of the secretariat, the GM, the CRIC and the CST is funded from five trust funds:

- (a) The Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNCCD;
- (b) Trust Fund for Participation of Representatives of Eligible Parties in the Sessions of the UNCCD Conference;
- (c) Trust Fund for Voluntary Financing of Activities under the UNCCD;
- (d) Trust Fund for Voluntary Financing of Activities under the GM;
- (e) Trust Fund for Convention Events Organized by the UNCCD Secretariat (the Bonn Fund).

5. The core budget and the indicative scale of contributions from all Parties are approved by the COP. The indicative scale of contributions is based on the scale of assessment of the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly. In the biennium 2018–2019, the indicative scale of contributions (see

¹ Decision 1/COP.1.

annex I) has been established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/245, adopted by the General Assembly on 23 December 2015 at its seventieth session. The total amount of indicative contributions also takes into account the annual contribution of EUR 511,292 from the host Government.

III. Proposed budget for the Convention

A. Overview of core budget requirements

6. Mindful of the fiscal challenges that governments are experiencing throughout the world, the Executive Secretary is committed to maintaining the same level of core budget resources for the biennium 2018–2019, representing the fourth consecutive biennium for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat with a zero nominal budget. It is important to note that this proposal would not affect the ability of the secretariat or the GM to deliver on the important mandates set out by the Parties.

7. In a continuing effort to streamline the work of the secretariat, the Executive Secretary combined the Knowledge management, science and technology unit with the Facilitation of monitoring and implementation unit to form the Science, technology and implementation unit, which now services the CST and CRIC, supporting coordination and information exchange within and among the Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention and facilitating access to capacity-building.

8. The estimated resource requirements for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 may be found in table 1.

Table 1
Core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2018–2019
(euros)

	<i>Approved budget 2016–2017</i>	<i>Proposed budget 2018–2019</i>	<i>Percentage variance</i>
<i>I. Secretariat programmes</i>			
A. Executive direction and management	2 050 085	2 050 085	0
B. External relations, policy and advocacy	2 172 900	2 172 900	0
C. Science, technology and implementation^a	3 953 400	3 953 400	0
D. Administrative services	2 509 051	2 509 051	0
<i>II. Global Mechanism</i>			
E. Global Mechanism	3 640 300	3 640 300	0
Subtotal (A-E)	14 325 736	14 325 736	0
III. Programme support costs (13%)	1 862 346	1 862 346	0
IV. Working capital reserve	-	-	
TOTAL (I-IV)	16 188 082	16 188 082	0

^a Formerly the Knowledge management, science and technology unit and the Facilitation of monitoring and implementation unit.

9. The estimated resource requirements by object of expenditure for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 may be found in table 2.

Table 2
Core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 by object of expenditure (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2016–2017</i>	<i>Proposed budget 2018–2019</i>	<i>Percentage variance</i>	<i>Percentage distribution</i>
Staff and other personnel costs	10 581 075	10 581 075	0.0	73.9
Consultants	691 100	691 100	0.0	4.8
Official travel	660 286	660 286	0.0	4.6
Training	154 000	154 000	0.0	1.1
Hospitality	22 000	22 000	0.0	0.2
General operating expenses	1 193 375	1 193 375	0.0	8.3
Supplies and equipment	92 000	92 000	0.0	0.6
Joint administration costs (United Nations, Bonn/ United Nations Office at Geneva)	931 900	931 900	0.0	6.5
TOTAL	14 325 736	14 325 736	0.0	100.0

10. As is the case in the current biennium, the Executive Secretary would require flexibility in implementing the post table in the next biennium. As further opportunities arise with the departure of staff, there may be less necessity to maintain high-level positions. Therefore, the Executive Secretary would continue to require the authority in the biennium 2018–2019 to establish lower-level positions than what are presented in the post table with the understanding that such adjustments are maintained within the same level of budget for staff costs, currently established at EUR 10,581,075. The proposed staffing of the secretariat and the GM for the biennium 2018–2019 is presented in table 3, reflecting no change from the present biennium.

Table 3
Proposed staffing of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism

	<i>Approved budget 2016–2017</i>			<i>Proposed budget 2018–2019</i>		
	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Global Mechanism</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>Global Mechanism</i>	<i>Total</i>
Professional category and above						
ASG	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
D-2	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
D-1	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
P-5	7.00	1.00	8.00	7.00	1.00	8.00
P-4	7.00	2.00	9.00	7.00	2.00	9.00
P-3	4.00	4.00	8.00	4.00	4.00	8.00
P-2	1.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	3.00
Subtotal Professional category and above	21.00	10.00	31.00	21.00	10.00	31.00
Subtotal General Services category	10.00	4.00	14.00	10.00	4.00	14.00
TOTAL	31.00	14.00	45.00	31.00	14.00	45.00

11. More detailed information on the estimated resource requirements for the secretariat and the GM is contained in the document on the costed two-year work programme for the biennium 2018–2019.²

B. After-service health insurance

12. Parties may recall that the secretariat and the GM fund after-service health insurance (ASHI) on a “pay-as-you-go” basis from the core budget, which continues to be the practice in the United Nations system, to cover the current biennium costs (short-term) for retirees. As a result, this practice does not take into account the accumulated liabilities for future costs, which were estimated to be EUR 12.3 million for the secretariat as at 31 December 2016.

13. The COP, by its decision 10/COP.12, paragraph 18, requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a report at its thirteenth session in the event that a decision was reached by the United Nations General Assembly on the subject.

14. At its seventy-first session, the General Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General on managing after-service health insurance (A/71/698). The General Assembly, by its resolution 71/272 (A/RES/71/272 B), took note of the report and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, with a further status update to be provided to the Assembly at its seventy-third session.

15. In the light of this development, the secretariat and the GM will continue to budget the costs of ASHI using the “pay-as-you-go” practice in the proposed budget for the biennium 2018–2019, which is estimated to be EUR 140,000 for the secretariat and the GM.

16. The COP may wish to request the secretariat and the GM to continue monitoring developments within the United Nations system and report to the COP at its fourteenth session.

C. Working capital reserve

17. The COP, by its decision 10/COP.12, paragraph 5, increased the working capital reserve (WCR) from 8.3 per cent to 10 per cent for the biennium 2016–2017, representing a month and a half of operating costs under the core budget. Nevertheless, the Executive Secretary continues to be concerned with the level of this reserve and would request Parties to consider establishing the working capital reserve over time at the same level as the highest percentage (21 per cent) on the indicative scale of contributions for the UNCCD.

18. To illustrate the need for this increase, table 4 presents the contributions received in 2016 by month.

² ICCD/COP(12)/6-ICCD/CRIC(14)/2.

Table 4
Receipt of core budget contributions in 2016 by month
 (euros)

<i>Month</i>	<i>Approved budget for 2016</i>	<i>2016 contributions received</i>	<i>Prior year contributions received</i>
January	669 266	624 807	20 926
February	669 266	863 014	3 384
March	669 266	326 034	81 914
April	669 266	213 794	3
May	669 266	1 252 692	616
June	669 267	427 894	28 176
July	669 267	112 239	216
August	669 267	406 628	950 198
September	669 267	302 934	3 377
October	669 267	1 654 410	252 534
November	669 267	65 640	210 879
December	669 267	608 674	230 777
TOTAL	8 031 199	6 858 760	1 783 000

19. As may be seen in table 4, 2016 core budget contributions received within the year 2016 amounted to EUR 6.9 million, which represented 85 per cent of the contributions required to fully fund the approved budget. Even with the WCR at 10 per cent (USD 954,018), the reserve was inadequate to cover planned expenditure for the year. The total shortfall after taking into consideration the WCR was still 5 per cent, which has temporarily been covered with prior year contributions paid in 2016.

20. Using the experience presented in table 4 regarding payment of contributions, noting the unpredictability of payments from prior years, Parties may wish to consider increasing the WCR progressively over time in order to assure continuous and predictable funding of the core budget for the secretariat and the GM within a 12-month period. The Executive Secretary is recommending a 2 per cent increase in the WCR in the biennium 2018–2019, which would amount to USD 190,804, or EUR 160,624.

D. Core budget contributions received from past financial periods

21. In paragraphs 24 through 26 of decision 10/COP.12, the COP urged Parties with outstanding contributions to make renewed efforts to pay outstanding contributions as expeditiously as possible to enhance the financial stability of the Convention through contributions by all Parties. Furthermore, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to enter into a voluntary plan with Parties with contributions in arrears in order to pay these outstanding contributions.

22. As at 31 May 2017, 34 Parties paid past contributions amounting to EUR 1,804,264. Furthermore, the secretariat is anticipating Canada's share of the 2017 core budget contribution in the amount of EUR 172,011. Table 5 summarizes the contributions received for prior periods and Canada.

Table 5
Cash balance in the Trust Fund for the UNCCD Core Budget received from prior financial periods
 (euros)

<i>Cash/contributions</i>	<i>Amount received</i>
Contributions received in the biennium 2016–2017 for prior periods	1 804 264
Share of Canada's core budget contribution for 2017	172 011
TOTAL	1 976 275

23. The secretariat is proposing that the amount of EUR 1,957,011 be divided to support (i) a 2 per cent increase in the WCR (EUR 160,624); and (ii) a special initiative on drought mitigation amounting to EUR 1,815,651. The presentation of this initiative, which is described in annex II, comes in the form of a positive agenda to fight drought. It is important to note that this initiative would become a separate programme approved by the COP, which would not increase the core budget or indicative contributions paid by Parties.

E. Trust Fund for Participation of Representatives of Eligible Parties in the Sessions of the UNCCD Conference

24. In accordance with the financial rules of the COP, a special fund was established to support the participation of representatives of developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.

25. The representatives of the developing countries continue to play an active role in the deliberations of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, assuming significant positions as Chairs or Vice-Chairs of the COP, the subsidiary bodies and contact groups. The active participation of the developing country representatives both at the technical and political levels contributes at each major session to building consensus and bringing about constructive outcomes to chart the path of the Convention ahead.

26. The estimated resource requirements for the fund may be found in table 6.

Table 6
Estimated resource requirements for participation in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process for the biennium 2018–2019
 (euros)

<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>
Seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	900 000
Fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties	1 300 000
TOTAL	2 200 000

F. Trust Fund for Voluntary Financing of Activities under the UNCCD

27. The Trust Fund for Voluntary Financing of Activities under the UNCCD and the Trust Fund for Voluntary Financing of Activities of the GM complement the core resources of the secretariat and the GM by supporting the work of the Convention.

G. Trust Fund for Convention Events Organized by the UNCCD Secretariat (the Bonn Fund)

28. The host Government makes an additional annual contribution of EUR 511,292 to fund Convention events by the secretariat. Known as the 'Bonn Fund', it is utilized according to a cost plan which is proposed by the secretariat and accepted by the Government of Germany. Table 7 shows an overview of the estimated budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

Table 7
The Bonn Fund in the biennium 2018–2019
(euros)

	<i>2018–2019</i>
Income	1 022 584
Expenditure	
Conference support for the organization of UNCCD events held in Bonn	649 900
Other activities related to the Convention	239 748
Programme support costs	132 936
TOTAL expenditure	1 022 584

H. Programme support costs (overheads)

29. In accordance with the financial rules of the COP and standard practice of the United Nations, a rate of 13 per cent is charged to all trust funds for programme support services, or overheads. These support services are mostly used to cover the costs of administrative support staff and secretariat staff costs at the United Nations liaison office in New York, as well as a Programme Officer for one region. Table 8 indicates the estimated human and financial resource requirements for the next biennium, which are contingent upon associated income to the special account.

Table 8
Human resource requirements in the biennium 2018–2019

	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
Professional category and above		
P-5	3.00	3.00
P-4	3.50	3.50
P-3	1.00	1.00
Subtotal Professional category and above	7.50	7.50
Subtotal General Services category	8.50	8.50
TOTAL posts	16.00	16.00
Associated staff costs (euros)	1 627 225	1 627 225

IV. Contingencies

A. Contingency budget for conference servicing approved by the General Assembly

30. The General Assembly has in its past decisions approved a provision for conference services (interpretation, document reproduction and other related services) as part of the regular budget of the United Nations for meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies. If the General Assembly decides not to continue this practice, Parties would have to assume the costs of this provision. The following contingency budget has therefore been prepared for consideration by the COP.

31. It is assumed that CRIC will meet for a total of three working days in the biennium. The provision will be required for corresponding meeting services, allowing for a total of ten meetings with interpretation for the CRIC session as well as the translation, processing and distribution of a total estimated 700 pages for the pre-session, 60 pages of in-session and 70 pages of post-session documentation.

32. It is also assumed that the COP will meet for a total of two consecutive weeks in 2019. The provision will be required for corresponding meeting services, allowing for two simultaneous meetings with interpretation at any time during the session of the COP (that is, 20 meetings per week) and the translation, processing and distribution of an estimated 2,000 pages of pre-session, 150 pages of in-session, and 200 pages of post-session documentation. The full cost of these requirements, estimated at EUR 2.1 million, may be found in table 9.

Table 9
Contingency budget for conference servicing
 (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2018–2019</i>
United Nations meetings services	1 835 000
Programme support costs	238 550
TOTAL	2 073 550

B. Contingency budget for hosting the Conference of the Parties in Bonn, Germany

33. In the event that the fourteenth session of the COP is held in Bonn, an additional amount of EUR 1.5 million (see table 10) will be required to cover the costs relating to logistical arrangements, including renting of the conference venue, installation of communication systems and contracting of local staff, provision of security equipment and personnel, and rental of equipment and supplies.

Table 10

Resource requirements for hosting the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

(euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2018–2019</i>
Incremental costs	1 204 000
Contingencies	120 000
Subtotal	1 324 000
Programme support costs	172 000
TOTAL	1 496 000

C. Contingency budget for hosting the session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Bonn, Germany

34. In the event that the seventeenth session of the CRIC is held in Bonn, an additional amount of EUR 678,000 (see table 11) will be required to cover the costs relating to logistical arrangements, including renting of the conference venue, installation of communication systems and contracting of local staff, provision of security equipment and personnel, and rental of equipment and supplies.

Table 11

Resource requirements for hosting the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

(euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2018–2019</i>
Incremental costs	540 000
Contingencies	60 000
Subtotal	600 000
Programme support costs	78 000
TOTAL	678 000

V. Conclusions and recommendations

35. This programme budget proposal presents the resource requirements for the work programmes of the secretariat, the GM, the CST and the CRIC. The COP may therefore wish to:

- (a) Adopt the work plan and work programmes of the secretariat and the GM;**
- (b) Approve a programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;**
- (c) Adopt the indicative scale of contributions for 2018 and 2019;**
- (d) Take note of the requirements for voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Participation of Representatives of Eligible Parties in the Sessions of the UNCCD Conference;**
- (e) Approve a contingency for conference services in the event that the General Assembly decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2018–2019;**
- (f) Approve an increase of 2 per cent in the working capital reserve;**
- (g) Approve a special initiative on an action plan to fight drought.**

Annex I

Indicative scale of assessment for the core budget of the Convention 2018–2019

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>			<i>United Nations scale</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2018</i>	<i>2018 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2019</i>	<i>2019 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Total amount payable (euros)</i>
1	Afghanistan	LDC	0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
2	Albania		0.008	0.008	591	0.008	591	1,182
3	Algeria		0.161	0.157	11,903	0.157	11,903	23,806
4	Andorra		0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
5	Angola	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
6	Antigua and Barbuda		0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
7	Argentina		0.892	0.870	65,945	0.870	65,945	131,890
8	Armenia		0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
9	Australia		2.337	2.279	172,773	2.279	172,773	345,546
10	Austria		0.720	0.702	53,229	0.702	53,229	106,458
11	Azerbaijan		0.060	0.058	4,436	0.058	4,436	8,872
12	Bahamas		0.014	0.014	1,035	0.014	1,035	2,070
13	Bahrain		0.044	0.043	3,253	0.043	3,253	6,506
14	Bangladesh	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
15	Barbados		0.007	0.007	518	0.007	518	1,036
16	Belarus		0.056	0.055	4,140	0.055	4,140	8,280
17	Belgium		0.885	0.863	65,428	0.863	65,428	130,856
18	Belize		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
19	Benin	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
20	Bhutan	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
21	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		0.012	0.012	887	0.012	887	1,774
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina		0.013	0.013	961	0.013	961	1,922
23	Botswana		0.014	0.014	1,035	0.014	1,035	2,070
24	Brazil		3.823	3.727	282,633	3.727	282,633	565,266

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>		<i>United Nations scale</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2018</i>	<i>2018 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2019</i>	<i>2019 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Total amount payable (euros)</i>	
25	Brunei Darussalam		0.029	0.028	2,144	0.028	2,144	4,288
26	Bulgaria		0.045	0.044	3,327	0.044	3,327	6,654
27	Burkina Faso	LDC	0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
28	Burundi	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
29	Cabo Verde		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
30	Cambodia	LDC	0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
31	Cameroon		0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
32	Canada		2.921	2.848	215,948	2.848	215,948	431,896
33	Central African Republic	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
34	Chad	LDC	0.005	0.005	370	0.005	370	740
35	Chile		0.399	0.389	29,498	0.389	29,498	58,996
36	China		7.921	7.723	585,596	7.723	585,596	1,171,192
37	Colombia		0.322	0.314	23,805	0.314	23,805	47,610
38	Comoros	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
39	Congo		0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
40	Cook Islands		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
41	Costa Rica		0.047	0.046	3,475	0.046	3,475	6,950
42	Côte d'Ivoire		0.009	0.009	665	0.009	665	1,330
43	Croatia		0.099	0.097	7,319	0.097	7,319	14,638
44	Cuba		0.065	0.063	4,805	0.063	4,805	9,610
45	Cyprus		0.043	0.042	3,179	0.042	3,179	6,358
46	Czechia		0.344	0.335	25,432	0.335	25,432	50,864
47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea		0.005	0.005	370	0.005	370	740
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	LDC	0.008	0.008	591	0.008	591	1,182
49	Denmark		0.584	0.569	43,175	0.569	43,175	86,350
50	Djibouti	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
51	Dominica		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
52	Dominican Republic		0.046	0.045	3,401	0.045	3,401	6,802

<i>Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification^a</i>		<i>United Nations scale</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2018</i>	<i>2018 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Indicative scale of assessment for 2019</i>	<i>2019 indicative contributions (euros)</i>	<i>Total amount payable (euros)</i>	
53	Ecuador		0.067	0.065	4,953	0.065	4,953	9,906
54	Egypt		0.152	0.148	11,237	0.148	11,237	22,474
55	El Salvador		0.014	0.014	1,035	0.014	1,035	2,070
56	Equatorial Guinea	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
57	Eritrea	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
58	Estonia		0.038	0.037	2,809	0.037	2,809	5,618
59	Ethiopia	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
60	European Union		2.500	2.500	189,569	2.500	189,569	379,138
61	Fiji		0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
62	Finland		0.456	0.445	33,712	0.445	33,712	67,424
63	France		4.859	4.737	359,224	4.737	359,224	718,448
64	Gabon		0.017	0.017	1,257	0.017	1,257	2,514
65	Gambia	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
66	Georgia		0.008	0.008	591	0.008	591	1,182
67	Germany		6.389	6.229	472,336	6.229	472,336	944,672
68	Ghana		0.016	0.016	1,183	0.016	1,183	2,366
69	Greece		0.471	0.459	34,821	0.459	34,821	69,642
70	Grenada		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
71	Guatemala		0.028	0.027	2,070	0.027	2,070	4,140
72	Guinea	LDC	0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
73	Guinea-Bissau	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
74	Guyana		0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
75	Haiti	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
76	Honduras		0.008	0.008	591	0.008	591	1,182
77	Hungary		0.161	0.157	11,903	0.157	11,903	23,806
78	Iceland		0.023	0.022	1,700	0.022	1,700	3,400
79	India		0.737	0.719	54,486	0.719	54,486	108,972
80	Indonesia		0.504	0.491	37,261	0.491	37,261	74,522
81	Iran (Islamic Republic of)		0.471	0.459	34,821	0.459	34,821	69,642

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82	Iraq		0.129	0.126	9,537	0.126	9,537	19,074
83	Ireland		0.335	0.327	24,766	0.327	24,766	49,532
84	Israel		0.430	0.419	31,790	0.419	31,790	63,580
85	Italy		3.748	3.654	277,088	3.654	277,088	554,176
86	Jamaica		0.009	0.009	665	0.009	665	1,330
87	Japan		9.680	9.438	715,638	9.438	715,638	1,431,276
88	Jordan		0.020	0.019	1,479	0.019	1,479	2,958
89	Kazakhstan		0.191	0.186	14,121	0.186	14,121	28,242
90	Kenya		0.018	0.018	1,331	0.018	1,331	2,662
91	Kiribati	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
92	Kuwait		0.285	0.278	21,070	0.278	21,070	42,140
93	Kyrgyzstan		0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
94	Lao People's Democratic Republic	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
95	Latvia		0.050	0.049	3,696	0.049	3,696	7,392
96	Lebanon		0.046	0.045	3,401	0.045	3,401	6,802
97	Lesotho	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
98	Liberia	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
99	Libya		0.125	0.122	9,241	0.122	9,241	18,482
100	Liechtenstein		0.007	0.007	518	0.007	518	1,036
101	Lithuania		0.072	0.070	5,323	0.070	5,323	10,646
102	Luxembourg		0.064	0.062	4,731	0.062	4,731	9,462
103	Madagascar	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
104	Malawi	LDC	0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
105	Malaysia		0.322	0.314	23,805	0.314	23,805	47,610
106	Maldives		0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
107	Mali	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
108	Malta		0.016	0.016	1,183	0.016	1,183	2,366
109	Marshall Islands		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152

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110	Mauritania	LDC	0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
111	Mauritius		0.012	0.012	887	0.012	887	1,774
112	Mexico		1.435	1.399	106,089	1.399	106,089	212,178
113	Micronesia (Federated States of)		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
114	Monaco		0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
115	Mongolia		0.005	0.005	370	0.005	370	740
116	Montenegro		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
117	Morocco		0.054	0.053	3,992	0.053	3,992	7,984
118	Mozambique		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
119	Myanmar	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
120	Namibia		0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
121	Nauru		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
122	Nepal	LDC	0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
123	Netherlands		1.482	1.445	109,564	1.445	109,564	219,128
124	New Zealand		0.268	0.261	19,813	0.261	19,813	39,626
125	Nicaragua		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
126	Niger	LDC	0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
127	Nigeria		0.209	0.204	15,451	0.204	15,451	30,902
128	Niue		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
129	Norway		0.849	0.828	62,766	0.828	62,766	125,532
130	Oman		0.113	0.110	8,354	0.110	8,354	16,708
131	Pakistan		0.093	0.091	6,875	0.091	6,875	13,750
132	Palau		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
133	Panama		0.034	0.033	2,514	0.033	2,514	5,028
134	Papua New Guinea		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
135	Paraguay		0.014	0.014	1,035	0.014	1,035	2,070
136	Peru		0.136	0.133	10,054	0.133	10,054	20,108
137	Philippines		0.165	0.161	12,198	0.161	12,198	24,396

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138	Poland		0.841	62,175	0.820	62,175	124,350
139	Portugal		0.392	28,980	0.382	28,980	57,960
140	Qatar		0.269	19,887	0.262	19,887	39,774
141	Republic of Korea		2.039	150,742	1.988	150,742	301,484
142	Republic of Moldova		0.004	296	0.004	296	592
143	Romania		0.184	13,603	0.179	13,603	27,206
144	Russian Federation		3.088	228,295	3.011	228,295	456,590
145	Rwanda	LDC	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
146	Saint Kitts and Nevis		0.001	76	0.001	76	152
147	Saint Lucia		0.001	76	0.001	76	152
148	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		0.001	76	0.001	76	152
149	Samoa		0.001	76	0.001	76	152
150	San Marino		0.003	222	0.003	222	444
151	Sao Tome and Principe	LDC	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
152	Saudi Arabia		1.146	84,723	1.117	84,723	169,446
153	Senegal	LDC	0.005	370	0.005	370	740
154	Serbia		0.032	2,366	0.031	2,366	4,732
155	Seychelles		0.001	76	0.001	76	152
156	Sierra Leone	LDC	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
157	Singapore		0.447	33,047	0.436	33,047	66,094
158	Slovakia		0.160	11,829	0.156	11,829	23,658
159	Slovenia		0.084	6,210	0.082	6,210	12,420
160	Solomon Islands	LDC	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
161	Somalia	LDC	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
162	South Africa		0.364	26,910	0.355	26,910	53,820
163	South Sudan	LDC	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
164	Spain		2.443	180,610	2.382	180,610	361,220
165	Sri Lanka		0.031	2,292	0.030	2,292	4,584

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166	Sudan	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
167	Suriname		0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
168	Swaziland		0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
169	Sweden		0.956	0.932	70,677	0.932	70,677	141,354
170	Switzerland		1.140	1.111	84,280	1.111	84,280	168,560
171	Syrian Arab Republic		0.024	0.023	1,774	0.023	1,774	3,548
172	Tajikistan		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
173	Thailand		0.291	0.284	21,514	0.284	21,514	43,028
174	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		0.007	0.007	518	0.007	518	1,036
175	Timor-Leste	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
176	Togo	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
177	Tonga		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
178	Trinidad and Tobago		0.034	0.033	2,514	0.033	2,514	5,028
179	Tunisia		0.028	0.027	2,070	0.027	2,070	4,140
180	Turkey		1.018	0.993	75,260	0.993	75,260	150,520
181	Turkmenistan		0.026	0.025	1,922	0.025	1,922	3,844
182	Tuvalu	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
183	Uganda	LDC	0.009	0.009	665	0.009	665	1,330
184	Ukraine		0.103	0.100	7,615	0.100	7,615	15,230
185	United Arab Emirates		0.604	0.589	44,653	0.589	44,653	89,306
186	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island		4.463	4.351	329,948	4.351	329,948	659,896
187	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
188	United States of America		22.000	21.449	1,626,450	21.449	1,626,450	3,252,900
189	Uruguay		0.079	0.077	5,840	0.077	5,840	11,680
190	Uzbekistan		0.023	0.022	1,700	0.022	1,700	3,400
191	Vanuatu	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
192	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		0.571	0.557	42,214	0.557	42,214	84,428

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193	Viet Nam		0.058	4,288	0.057	4,288	8,576
194	Yemen	LDC	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
195	Zambia	LDC	0.007	518	0.007	518	1,036
196	Zimbabwe	LDC	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
Total from Parties			102.502	7,582,749	100.000	7,582,749	15,165,498

^a Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties as of 31 May 2017.

Abbreviation: LDC = least developed country.

Note: The United States of America views its funding to the core budget of the Convention as a voluntary contribution.

Annex II

The positive agenda on drought: a special initiative

1. In the most general sense, drought is simply a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time – usually a season or more. However, drought, when poorly managed, can result in the most devastating water shortages for key economic activities, groups or environmental sectors. Human activity, such as poor land management, can exacerbate the impacts of drought.
2. We do not have to sit back and accept that drought will bring misery to communities and eviscerate ecosystems. There is much that can and should be done. This is an agenda to change our approach to drought and start fighting back.
3. As the only binding international agreement with a mandate to act on drought, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), building on lessons learned through pilot projects carried out in Namibia, Nigeria and Columbia in 2017, aims to make people and ecosystems more resilient to drought. This objective is in line with the forthcoming new strategic framework for 2018–2030. As Parties start to develop national drought policies, the secretariat is proposing an action agenda to kick-start the UNCCD's renewed focus on practical drought activities.
4. The secretariat is proposing three critical elements, which are described in the following sections.

I. Drought preparedness systems

5. Traditional approaches to drought monitoring and early warning have focused on documenting weather and rainfall data. The UNCCD secretariat believes an effective meteorological system is vital for effective drought preparedness. In the United Nations system, work on meteorological systems is within the remit of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). To achieve effective drought preparedness, simply having data available is not enough.
6. The secretariat will develop a partnership with WMO to support the development of comprehensive drought preparedness systems.
7. A comprehensive system combines the monitoring of key indicators and indices relating to precipitation, temperature, soil moisture, vegetation condition, stream flow, snowpack and ground water with the development of an effective drought communication and information dissemination system. The system should also be able to develop and share reliable seasonal forecasts and monitor the direct and indirect consequences of drought, especially the impacts to vulnerable sectors such as agriculture.
8. The secretariat would help build the capacity of Parties to communicate reliable warning messages to critical stakeholders. We would aim to build on and integrate local and indigenous knowledge on drought characteristics, impacts and risks wherever feasible.
9. In 2018–2019, we would support at least 30 countries and prioritize those Parties who declared a drought emergency in 2016–2017.
10. The approximate budget for this activity is EUR 600,000 (EUR 20,000 * 30).

II. Regional efforts to reduce drought vulnerability and risk

11. Knowledge is power. Parties need to know about the extent and magnitude of the vulnerabilities and risks so they can prioritize action.
12. The secretariat will develop and roll out an assessment methodology to allow countries to identify drought impacts on vulnerable economic sectors and communities and then take proactive action to protect people and economic interests.
13. The methodology involves (i) assessing drought impacts and vulnerabilities for key sectors – such as the cropping and livestock, energy, tourism, and health sectors – and developing appropriate decision-support tools for the impacted sectors; (ii) assessing the physical, social, economic and environmental pressures on communities to identify who and what is at risk and why before, during and shortly after drought; (iii) assessing conditions or situations that increase the resistance or susceptibility to drought and the coping capacity of communities affected by drought; and (iv) assessing the extent of potential damage or loss in the event of a drought. It would propose a decision-making pathway to get countries moving quickly to protect key sectors and communities.
14. In 2018–2019, we would support regional technical workshops on the methodology in each UNCCD Regional Implementation Annex.
15. The approximate budget for this activity is EUR 500,000.

III. Toolbox to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought

16. There are a number of very positive, practical steps that can be taken to mitigate the worst impacts of drought and build the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems.
17. The secretariat would develop, document and roll out a toolbox of interventions to help Parties identify the best choices for them.
18. Proposed interventions would include trials and demonstrations of the following in selected communities/national institutions:
 - (a) Water supply options using water harvesting techniques, such as sand dams, run-off in a pit/reservoir with percolation, or dew/fog collection;
 - (b) Groundwater recharge;
 - (c) Targeted weather index insurance and safety nets for pastoralists and cropping;
 - (d) Best practices in water-use efficiency, drip/precision irrigation management and water valuation;
 - (e) Cultivation of drought-resistant species and varieties in drought prone areas to improve food yields during drought;
 - (f) Diversified herd composition;
 - (g) Sustainable land use and rehabilitation aligned with national land degradation neutrality targets, including increased land cover in drought hotspots and drought-prone areas.

19. In 2018–2019, we would support research, deliver a small number of additional pilot projects and document the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of potential drought mitigation interventions.

20. The approximate budget for this activity is EUR 900,000.

IV. Budget

21. The initial budget for this special initiative is approximately EUR 2,000,000. We envisage that this funding will come partially from voluntary funding and partially from UNCCD core resources. Activities A and C may be expanded to a wider number of countries and activities should additional voluntary funding become available.
